

'I gave my room a GOLDEN FINISH'

FOCAL POINT

'The log burner is an important element of the room - it's perfect to cosy up in front of on a winter's day'



STYLE TIP

'Fill an empty frame with looking glass for a bespoke mirror that no one else will have'

OUR COVER STAR!



Liana, 40, gave her dated living room a fresh new look then brightened it up with festive cheer

When I first moved into our house in XXXXX, I immediately painted it white throughout, then lived with that to get a feel of what worked,' says Liana. 'Although white walls simplified everything, I felt the rooms really needed some warmth and a cohesive look to pull them together - but I wasn't sure where to start.'

A friend had employed Luana Hanson Interiors to design their extension and when I saw what a brilliant job she had done, I knew I wanted to get her on board.

The starting point

At my initial meeting with Luana, she really helped me pinpoint the look I was hoping to achieve. My style has a Scandinavian influence, as I love the simplicity of that style. I felt I wanted the overall design to be contemporary, while retaining period features and using colours that flowed together to create a restful feel throughout the house. Luana created moodboards and floor plans, so I could see visually what she had in mind. Afterwards I used the boards as a benchmark, and kept referring back to them when having to make decisions.

The wall colour was really important for creating the right atmosphere and this had previously been a real stumbling block for me. Luana suggested a lovely soft grey for the walls. She brought along MDF boards with samples of a few different shades painted on them, which we attached to the walls so we could see how they worked in different lights. This was a brilliant idea because it gave us a good idea of how the colour was going to suit the space.

The hard work

As the area is open plan, I wanted to keep it as clutter free as possible. So Luana designed floor-to-ceiling cupboards and a built-in office area. She engaged a team of carpenters and painters to put everything in place, which was brilliant, as I was so busy with work. Meanwhile, she helped me research contemporary furniture. We had looked at the whole layout to make the most of the available space.

MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Liana Ransom, 40, a Lexus specialist in sales and I live with my partner Tim McCombie, an IT manager and my daughter Kyah, 18, a student. We moved into our three-bedroom Victorian terrace house in XXXXX PLACE in November 2009 and we've decorated it throughout.

MY CHALLENGE I couldn't quite get the right flow in the downstairs area of the house. As the whole floor is open plan, I wanted to give the space a cohesive look.

MY WISH LIST I wanted to create a relaxed living area, which felt as spacious as possible so we could unwind there in the evening and entertain, and also achieve an elegantly festive look for Christmas.'

SAVING SPACE

'With the new layout, the Christmas tree can go in the bay window. It looks so lovely with the white shutters'

TOTAL
£3,458
TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST



STYLE TIP

'In an open plan, keep furniture low-level to increase the sense of space'

CREATING ATMOSPHERE

'We added warmth with a collection of cushions in gold and ochre hues'

Stylists at Home



CLAIRE SAYS
'xx
xx.'

DECK THE HALLS

'For a modern take on a garland, suspend baubles between banisters'



'FOR AN EASY CHRISTMAS CENTREPIECE, ARRANGE BAUBLES IN A GLASS BOWL AND ADD BATTERY-POWERED LED LIGHTS FOR EXTRA SPARKLE AFTER DARK'



FINAL FLOURISH

'We invested in some new gold-rimmed china'

» so we needed to find pieces to fit. Luana suggested a light coloured L-shaped sofa positioned alongside the stairs, which has really opened up the space both visually and practically. We found a TV unit with drawers to create extra freestanding storage and she also suggested adding a woodburner to lend ambience to the room.

Styling the room

The real joy was putting all the finishing touches in place. We went to an antiques market where Luana helped me pick a picture frame that she suggested putting a mirror in and hanging over the mantelpiece to create a greater sense of space. Since then, I've been collecting ornaments with a vintage feel to match the age of the house.

It has been such a pleasure decorating for Christmas. With the new layout, we can put the tree in the bay, and adding a few blush pink baubles to my collection of golden ones ties the whole look together. The sparkling touches look particularly pretty in candlelight. I'm so pleased it was all finished in time for Christmas and now I'm looking forward to celebrating in style.'

My shopping list

Walls painted in Oak Apple matt emulsion, £39.50 per 2.5ltr, Fired Earth. **Woodburner**, around £800, Charnwood. For a similar **sofa** try the Hyde, from £495; the Herrmann **coffee table** is a match, from £225, both Habitat. For a similar **rug** try Adum, £120, Ikea. **Tripod lamps**, from £149; **memory domes**, made to order from £250; gold leaf **picture**, £499, all Luana Hanson. Plain velvet **cushions** in gold, storm and sulphur, £25 each; gold satin **ribbon**, £5 per 5m roll; **pearlised bauble**, £2; Sketch **snowflake bauble**, £4.50; Helsinki **clear bauble**, £3; Snowhill **bauble**, £3.50, all John Lewis. **Christmas flowers**, £40, Real Flowers. **Nutcracker biscuits**, £35, Biscuiteers. Try the Newton **storage unit**, £499, Dwell. Arris **teapot**, £125; **plates**, from £22.50; **sugar box** and **milk jug**, £95, all Wedgwood. **Pearl and ribbon ball**, £2.99; **pink flower embossed ball**, £3.49; **clear glass ball** with gold and silver spots, £3.99; **pink lace ball**, £1.99, all Wyevale Garden Centres. **Gold confetti wrapping paper**, £8.95, Dotcomgiftshop.

WORDS DILLY ORME PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE LLOYD-DAVIES

Steal Liana's
LIVING ROOM LOOK

Mix charcoal, blush and grown-up glimmers for this sophisticated style



Gold vintage decorations, £14.99 for three, Very



Velvet cushion, £5, M&Co



Brass hanging frame, £14, Oliver Bonas



Lab desk table lamp, £99, Out & Out Original



Candle, £5, Primark



Gold glitter ball garland, £8, Sainsbury's

DRAP
ON YOUR
TREE



Mistletoe cloche, £35, Marks & Spencer



SERVE
FESTIVE
DRINKS

Hammered gold tray, £34, MiaFleur



Charcoal kindling bucket, £18, Garden Trading

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